



Common questions about the GQE

What is the GQE?

- Indiana's Graduation Qualifying Exam (GQE) is designed to ensure students have mastered basic reading, writing and math skills before graduating from high school.
- To earn a high school diploma, students must meet the GQE requirement by either passing the English/language arts and mathematics exams or qualifying for a GQE waiver.
- Indiana is changing how students are tested for the GQE requirement beginning this year (2008-09).

What's new this year?

- Previously, students took one big test in grade 10 that covered both English/language arts and math. The class of 2011 (incoming sophomores this fall) will be the last class to take this form of the GQE.
- Beginning with the class of 2012 (incoming freshmen this fall), the new GQE consists of two smaller tests that students will take after completing courses in Algebra I and English 10.

When are the exams?

- For the class of 2011 (incoming sophomores this fall), the GQE will be administered this fall on September 16, 17 and 18.
- Beginning with the class of 2012 (incoming freshmen this fall), the GQE will be given at various times during the year, depending on when a student completes Algebra I and English 10. For most students, that will be in late spring.

What's tested on the new GQE?

- Algebra I
- English 10

Why is Indiana making this change?

- When students took the GQE in the fall of grade 10, the test covered material that was learned the previous year or earlier. By testing at the end of each course, the content will still be fresh.
- Some students take Algebra I in middle school, so allowing students to meet this testing requirement earlier clears the way for them to pursue other higher-level math courses.
- Because students already take end-of-course tests in Algebra I, changing the GQE requirement actually cuts down on the number of tests students have to take.

What happens if a student doesn't pass the GQE?

- Students will have the opportunity to retake the Algebra I and English 10 exams.
- Students who have not passed the GQE after completing extra help sessions and retaking the test may qualify for a GQE waiver. Talk to your school counselor for more information.

Are there any other end-of-course tests students have to take in high school?

- Only the Algebra I and English I0 tests are currently required for graduation, but students may take additional end-of-course exams in Algebra II, Biology I, English I I and U.S. History.
- Many schools use scores from the end-of-course exams tests in determining final grades, so students should take these tests seriously.

What if I have special needs?

- Several testing accommodations are available for students with disabilities or limited English proficiency, such as additional time and changes in test scheduling, format and setting.
- Talk to your parents and guidance counselors if you have an Individualized Education Program or Section 504 Plan; many instructional or testing accommodations included in your plan can be followed for the GQE.
- Talk to your school counselor for more information about the specific accommodations in your student's Individualized Education Program, Section 504 Plan or Individual Learning Plan.

What if I have more questions about GQE?

- Talk to teachers and counselors at your school.
- Visit www.doe.in.gov/istep/gqe or call 1-888-54-ISTEP.
- Visit www.learnmoreindiana.org/gqe or call 1-800-992-2076.